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Iran, Iraq end another round of talks

GENEVA (R) — Iran and Iraq Sunday ended four days of inconclusive ministerial talks on ways to turn their eight-month ceasefire into a peace settlement, each blaming the other for the stalemate. They held a total of five hours of so-called "proximity talks" chaired by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who admitted that no progress had been achieved. After the latest round of negotiations ended at the United Nations' European headquarters in Geneva, Perez de Cuellar said both sides reaffirmed a commitment to uphold a U.N.-brokered ceasefire which ended eight years of war in the Gulf. Perez de Cuellar said he would try to convene another round of ministerial negotiations in June. "But we have made no real progress... although the process continues," he added. He said the main stumbling-blocks had been identified, "and it is now up to us to iron out the difficulties." Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz told reporters: "I cannot ignore the fact that we haven't made any progress." He accused Iran of not abiding by the spirit and letter of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which forms the basis of a peace plan before the two delegations.

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Cabinet reviews events, praises Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet, under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi, held a meeting Saturday evening to discuss the unhappy events that took place in some of the Kingdom's cities, and listened to a report about these events from the ministers of information and interior.

The Cabinet expressed confidence in the citizens of various cities around the Kingdom for the events.

Kuwait voices full support for Jordan

KUWAIT (Petra) — Jordan's security and stability are vital for the security and stability of the whole Arab region, and Kuwait stands solidly in support of the Kingdom, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has said.

In an interview published Sunday in the Kuwaiti daily Al Aibaas, Sheikh Saad voiced full confidence in the wisdom of His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian leadership and said such wisdom was capable of maintaining and advancing stability and security in Jordan and the region.

Arafat, Mitterrand to meet in Paris in May

PARIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will pay his first official visit to France in early May for talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Sunday.

Mitterrand had previously declared his intention to meet Arafat in France this year. State-run Radio France International reported Saturday Arafat would be in Paris May 2 and 3.

Dumas, in a radio interview Sunday, confirmed that the visit would take place in "the first days of May."

"It is an official visit since it has been organised by the head of state," he said.

The PLO's drive for international support has gathered pace since it recognised Israel's right to exist and rejected terrorism last December.

Arafat has met Pope John Paul II and Western European leaders, but his official visit to France, one of the three permanent Western members of the U.N. Security Council, represents a major diplomatic coup. The United States and Britain have announced no plans to receive him at the

their ability, through awareness, nationalism and cooperation with the specialised security authorities, to contain the events and restore calm, security and order.

The Cabinet also expressed its highest appreciation for the intensified and continuous effort of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who served as Regent, in his supervision and follow-up on the containment of the events.



His Majesty King Hussein with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday (Petra photo)

Iraqi leader pays brief visit to Jordan

King reassures Iraqi president on situation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein paid a brief working visit to Jordan Sunday evening during which His Majesty King Hussein briefed him on the situation in the wake of the recent regrettable incidents in the Kingdom and reassured the Iraqi leader that Jordan would continue to remain a fortress safeguarding Arab interests in the face of all threats and challenges.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King reaffirmed that Jordan would continue to remain committed to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and defend its sister members in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) as well as any other Arab country against any threats.

The King said he was determined to deal with the root causes behind the events in Jordan in a very short time and with all available means, relying on the awareness of the people and their sense of responsibility towards the country and its future, Petra said.

The King also briefed the Iraqi leader on the outcome of his recent visits to France and the United States and the impressions he gained from his meetings with French President Francois Mitterrand, U.S. President George Bush and other senior American officials, Petra said.

The King's talks with President Hussein and an iftar His Majesty hosted for the Iraqi leader were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and the King's political advisor Adnan Ahu Odeh.

The Iraqi president, who left shortly after the iftar, was accompanied by Minister of Information and Culture Latif Nusseif Jassem,

highest level.

Shamir unhappy

Interviewed on French Television, Dumas said France remains "a close friend of Israel."

But Israeli Prime Minister Shamir said in an interview with Israeli army radio that he sees the planned visit "with gravity."

"President Mitterrand presents himself as a friend of Israel, but what he does today totally opposes any friendly treatment of Israel," Shamir said.

Dumas said France takes into account Israel's concerns, but also "the reality of the Palestinian people."

He said the actions of the Palestine National Council (PNC) last year in Algiers and statements by Arafat in December accepting the right of Israel to exist and renouncing terrorism made the visit possible.

Dumas noted that Arafat already has made official visits to Greece, Spain and Italy, and has been received by Pope John Paul II.

Dumas and other French foreign ministers have met with Arafat on several occasions, but never before in Paris.

De Mita sees chance for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Italy's Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita arrived here Sunday, saying that Arabs have moderated their stance towards Israel and the chance to open Middle East peace talks should not be lost.

At a red-carpet welcoming ceremony, De Mita said Italy was always "pursued a sound and open dialogue with all the parties concerned in the Middle East peace."

The international scene, marked by... the recent evolution towards moderation by some of the parties involved in the dispute, has laid the foundations for favourable developments which must not be neglected."

In his brief remarks he did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by name, but Italy has long favoured peace talks with the PLO. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is a staunch opponent of such dialogue.

In a welcoming speech Shamir said Israel would seek "increased bilateral cooperation to bring peace to our region."

De Mita, accompanied by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, was greeted by Shamir and Vice-Premier Shimon Peres.

The army's honour guard did not give the customary 21-gun salute, fearing that the gunshots might scare local residents into believing there was an attack, Israeli radio reported.

De Mita is here on a 48-hour

visit that will include talks with Shamir, Peres, President Chaim Herzog and leading Palestinian figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir is expected to seek European support for Palestinian elections.

De Mita's visit is the first by any European leader since Shamir outlined his election plan to U.S. President George Bush in Washington earlier this month.

Shamir aide Yossi Ahimeir said: "The prime minister will emphasise the only role the Europeans can play is to convince Arab states to adopt Mr. Shamir's plan and to encourage the Arabs to come to the negotiating table for direct talks."

De Mita's visit reciprocates one by Shamir to Italy 14 months ago, when he faced protests over Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising.

Italy was the first European Community state to receive PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat after last November's proclamation of an independent Palestinian state.

Israeli officials say privately they hope the Italians will say Shamir's election proposal is worthy of consideration.

The visit might become quite important because it will be the first opportunity to convince the Europeans, if not to give full support to what is becoming a U.S.-Israel idea, then at least to keep the door open," a foreign ministry source said.

Scores of people queue for bread in a Beirut bakery.



Scores of people queue for bread in a Beirut bakery.

Jordan Times

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King returns home after U.S. visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Sunday morning following a five-day working visit to the U.S.

During his visit, King Hussein held talks with U.S. President George Bush, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Secretary of Defence Richard Cheney as well as senior administration officials and a large number of U.S. congressmen.

The discussions covered the latest developments on the international level, the Middle East issue and Jordanian-U.S. relations.

The talks stressed the importance of reviving and following up efforts aimed at securing a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which state the principle of exchanging land for peace and guaranteeing the security of all states in the region and the attainment of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The new U.S. administration expressed its deep appreciation for Jordan's effective and constructive role under the leadership of King Hussein, a role aimed at finding a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem, stressing Washington's intention to support Jordan in the military and economic fields.

During his visit, King Hussein also met with editors of the Washington Post and the American television networks CNN and ABC and explained the basic pillars that form the general framework of Jordan's position towards the latest developments in the Middle East issue, taking into consideration the dynamics and latest political givens, namely the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of Resolution 242 and the organisation's willingness to participate in negotiations aimed at finding a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His Majesty said: "Jordan (which) has always supported the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, cannot but reaffirm this support and advance the positive direction and steps which has



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received upon their return home Sunday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (Petra photo).

Studies lauded King Hussein's wisdom and courage as well as efforts he exerted in building and developing Jordan. They also praised Jordan's achievements under His Majesty's leadership, which combined the traditional with the modern, and the Kingdom's progress despite all obstacles and difficulties.

The speakers also expressed great appreciation for His Majesty's efforts towards achieving peace in the Middle East.

King Hussein replied with a brief speech in which he expressed his pride in and appreciation of the university and City of Boston for granting him the honorary degree.

King Hussein explained Jordan's contribution to that process in crystallising the pillars of a just and comprehensive peace in the face of extremist conflicts that have thus far deprived the area of the peace.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance presented King Hussein to the audience, highlighting King Hussein's status at the regional and international levels and his constant endeavours to achieve peace. He also spoke of Jordan's large role in international relations, a role which has given the Kingdom an important weight surpassing the country's geographic and material size.

The King also visited Boston where he received an honorary doctorate degree in law from the University of Boston. At the ceremony the university's president, John Seeler, and former U.S. Ambassador Herman Allits — who currently heads the university's centre for Middle East studies.

Receiving King Hussein and Queen Noor upon their arrival were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members, senior civil and military officials, the ambassadors of ACC states in Amman and the French and American charge d'affaires in Amman.

Shells pound Beirut amid ceasefire hopes

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shells slammed into Beirut and nearby hilltop towns early Sunday as Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss called for political reforms ahead of Arab League efforts to end the 14-year-old civil war.

Security sources quoted by Reuters said a French tanker with much-needed fuel docked at the refinery of Zahran after waiting offshore for more than a week for permission to berth.

The tanker was to unload a third of its 6,000 tonnes of fuel at the refinery in South Lebanon and then head north to unload the rest at the power station of Zouk, the sources said.

Artillery shells blasted residential areas in east Beirut and town nearby, renewing a barrage which killed at least 280 people in the past six weeks.

Shells also exploded at the port of Jouieh in sporadic attacks which ended before dawn.

Sunday was the sixth day of a relative lull during which Beirut's 1.5 million people, fearing new bombardments, have stockpiled food and piled more sandbags around their homes and shelters.

Hoss told Al Diyar newspaper that Muslims should be given more say in a Christian-dominated system under which traditionally the president has been a Christian and the prime minister a Sunni Muslim.

He said Arab League foreign ministers, who meet in Tunis Wednesday to try to resolve the crisis, should seek an end to a blockade of militia ports imposed last month by the rival military administration of Major-General Michel Aoun.

The blockade sparked the fiercest artillery duels of the war, pitting Aoun's troops against Syrian forces and Lebanese militias.

Al Diyar, an independent paper based in east Beirut, said the Arab League meeting would be "the compass which will determine the path that the crisis will follow."

Western diplomats said some European countries, particularly France which this month sent a hospital ship to evacuate scores of wounded civilians, felt the United Nations make mediation efforts if the Arab League initiative failed.

But Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, head of the Arab League mediating committee, said Saturday there was no need for other international involvement.

Sharaa in UAE

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa arrived in Abu Dhabi unexpectedly Sunday for talks on the Lebanese crisis with officials in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Sharaa was quoted by the UAE official news agency WAM as saying he planned to exchange views with the UAE officials on the developments in the Middle East region and in Lebanon. He did not elaborate.

Officials here said Sharaa was expected to meet President Sheikh Zayed Ibu Sultan Al Nahyan during the two-day visit.

The trip came four days ahead of the emergency meeting of the Arab League council on Lebanon.

The UAE is a member of the six-member committee entrusted with finding a settlement for the crisis in Lebanon. It is headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The other members are Jordan, Sudan, Algeria and Tunisia.

The Arab League council might call for an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the crisis. Envoy of King Hassan II of Morocco were touring Arab capitals lobbying support for convening such a meeting next month. (See page 2).

Morocco launches campaign for summit

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

RABAT — King Hassan has launched a diplomatic drive for an emergency Arab summit in Morocco next month to rally support behind the new Palestinian peace strategy.

Diplomats said the summit would bring together Egypt and Syria for the first time in a decade and would implicitly back Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's recognition of Israel's right to exist.

"The king is going all out for a summit. It would be a moderate, history-making summit. He is one of the few Arab leaders who could pull this off," said a senior Western diplomatic source.

"The decisions of this summit would put an end to any existing doubt regarding the non-equivocal Arab will to build peace and to live peacefully with all states in the area," King Hassan said in a speech last month.

Three of the king's close advisers are touring Middle East capitals to sound out Arab leaders on the summit.

Diplomats say Syria is willing to attend, but that problems still remained over what formula to

use to ensure Egypt did.

Cairo was expelled from the Arab League for its separate treaty with Israel and has yet to be formally readmitted.

Damascus has informally told other Arabs it would not oppose Cairo's readmission but would similarly not do anything to assist it.

His Majesty King Hussein said earlier this month Jordan and other members of four-member Arab Cooperation Council, which includes Egypt, would boycott the summit unless Cairo attends.

"There is no question of a summit without Egypt. The king wants to bring all the main players together and there are many things going in his favour," an Arab diplomat said.

Arafat wants Arab backing at a summit to improve the PLO's negotiating position with the United States and against Israel.

He is under pressure from

Washington to make more concessions and from Palestinian hardliners who feel he has already gone too far.

In order to open a dialogue with the United States, Arafat recognised Israel's right to exist, accepted U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, and renounced terrorism.

Syrian backing for his peace strategy would greatly strengthen Arafat's hand, Palestinian sources say.

Arafat, recently elected president of Palestine, sees the summit as the next step on the road to holding an international Middle East peace conference — the main plank in the PLO's peace plan.

"The fact the king has come out into the open on this issue means things are going his way. If I had to bet, I would say there will be a summit and it will have an outcome viewed favourably by Washington," a U.S. diplomatic source said.

Washington would like Arab backing for Arafat's new strategy to browbeat the Israelis into making some concessions.

Diplomats say many people feel the time is right for a summit on the Palestinian question.

Morocco has been awash with rumours for months that the king



King Hassan II

was planning a spectacular Middle East peace initiative, but the issue came out into the open when Arafat unexpectedly arrived in the country two weeks ago.

Well-informed sources say the king told Arafat of the positive Syrian attitude and sought to allay his fears that there would be no summit at all if Saudi Arabia's King Fahd did not act soon. King Hassan — who has been in close contact with both Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Fahd — had already been given the green light to go for the emergency summit, the sources say.

A successful summit would be a triumphant return to the centre stage of Arab politics for King Hassan who was shunned by many countries after he met Shimon Peres, then Israeli prime minister, in the summer of 1986.

Kabul, Islamabad in war of words

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai threatened in an interview published Sunday to rocket Pakistan in retaliation for increasing rebel attacks in Afghanistan.

The official Afghan news agency Bakhtar quoted him as saying that Pakistan's military involvement in the Afghan war was undesirable.

"Therefore, Afghanistan can give itself the right to display a similar reaction to the attacks of foreign states," he said.

But Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told reporters in the north-western city of Peshawar that if the war was brought across the border Pakistan was capable of dealing with it.

Tanai's interview, monitored in Islamabad, was the most direct of a series of warnings to Pakistan since the last Soviet troops pulled out in mid-February.

He cited frequent rocket attacks on Kabul and other towns as signs of what he called rebel attempts to escalate the 10-year-old war and said Pakistani military interference had "remarkably increased" during the past two months.

"The patience shown by Afghanistan is not endless," he said, and added: "The Pakistani side should understand that the

soil of Pakistan, like Afghanistan, can be subjected to rocket attacks as well."

Pakistan has supported the Mujahideen rebels for years. But it denies Kabul's charges that its troops are fighting alongside them in recent intensified onslaughts in eastern Afghanistan.

"Pakistan is in no way involved in this war," Bhutto said in Peshawar. "But if the war is spread across the Pakistan border and whatever step is taken in this direction, we are capable enough to give a reply. We will give a reply."

The New York Times reported Monday that the rebel assault on the eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad was ordered by the Pakistani government with the knowledge of the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad.

The attack on Jalalabad was ordered against the advice of the Pakistani director of military intelligence, the newspaper reported. There was no Afghan present March 5 when the decision was made.

The assault on the town began March 6, the night after the meeting, and is now mired in its seventh week.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry official denied the newspaper report.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Arabia gives PLO \$12 million

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has donated \$12 million to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Palestinian ambassador to Riyadh was quoted Sunday as saying. Saudi Arabia made the payment in two instalments, the Saudi Press Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted envoy Rafiq Al Natsheh as saying. Riyadh said in December it would pay the PLO \$6 million a month to back the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, now in its 17th month. A Saudi Arabian commitment made in 1978 to pay the PLO a total of \$850 million expired in January.

Food poisoning hits Kuwaiti guardsmen

KUWAIT (R) — Seventy-three Kuwaiti National Guard trainees were rushed to hospital Saturday suffering from food poisoning, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported. The trainees, who all ate the same meal to end the daily fast of the holy month of Ramadan, were released within two hours. On April 8, 391 Kuwaiti police cadets became violently sick after eating a Ramadan meal prepared by a local catering company, KUNA said.

S. Arabia pardons hundreds to mark Ramadan

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia pardoned hundreds of prisoners when the holy month of Ramadan began April 6 and more are expected to be freed before it ends. "Hundreds of prisoners have been freed on the first of Ramadan," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Sunday quoted Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmad Ibn Abdul Aziz as saying. Prince Ahmad said he expected several more prisoners would be freed by the end of the fasting month in May. He thanked wealthy Saudi people "who paid prisoners' debts and enabled a large number of prisoners to return home after spending several months in jail."

18 extremists indicted in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A group of 18 Muslim fundamentalists, including four minors, were indicted and referred to court Saturday in connection with recent unrest at a Cairo area where five people were killed. The semi-official newspaper Al Ahram said the defendants were charged with possessing weapons and explosives for use in breaking the law and public order, endangering people's lives and resorting to force and violence in resisting law enforcers. The penalties for the charges range between execution and life imprisonment, according to Al Ahram. The 14 adults were referred to a state security court and the four minors to a juvenile court under the same charges. The charges were made in connection with last August unrest in Cairo's working-class district of El Shams where two police officers and three civilians were killed. More than 3000 extremists were arrested at the time. The government said most were affiliated with Jihad, an underground Muslim fundamentalist group blamed for the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat and subsequent abortive coup attempt.

Bodies of Kurdish rebels found in dump

ISTANBUL (R) — Three bodies and a head, presumed to be the remains of four Kurdish rebels, were found Saturday buried near Siirt in southeast Turkey in a municipal dump. The semi-official Anatolian news agency quoted Siirt prosecutor Mustafa Erdogan as saying the bodies belonged to "terrorists" killed in a clash with security forces. Such terms generally refer to guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers Party, who launched an armed rebellion in 1984, since when more than 1,300 people have been killed.

Sudanese militants attack destitute home

KHARTOUM (R) — Islamic militants in Sudan attacked a Roman Catholic centre for the destitute and dying, injuring a nun and three other people seriously, a Khartoum newspaper reported Sunday.

The English-language Sudan Times said members of the National Islamic Front (NIF) stormed out of the mosque opposite after Friday prayers and attacked the hospice in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman.

The newspaper said the militants saw the attack as the first step in an all out war against the government for refusing to impose strict Islamic law on the country.

They accused the church of supporting rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) who have been fighting since 1983 against what they see as domination of the south by the north.

The newspaper quoted Sister Maria Victoria of the centre as saying that the attackers shouted at her and threw stones that hit her on the head and wrist, and smashed the windows of the north.

The centre houses some 140 homeless poor and sick people and runs a feeding programme for malnourished children of shanty towns ringing Khartoum where many southern refugees live.

Fifty inmates were present

when the mob burst in but only 10 have stayed. The remainder fearing fresh attacks by militants have run away in flight, the Sudan Times said.

The newspaper quoted Sister Victoria who is being treated for two bad injuries and a broken wrist, as saying they were rescued by neighbours who rushed out shouting, forcing the mob to disperse.

Mahjoub Talha, the commissioner general of Khartoum province, said Saturday that such incidents will not be allowed to occur again and the culprits would be punished.

Railway paralysed

Sudan's railway network was paralysed Sunday due to a strike by employees demanding arrears of salary, a Khartoum newspaper reported.

The Al Ayam newspaper said Sudan railways' 33,000 workers obeyed a call for a five day strike Saturday and reported it was 100 per cent successful.

Sudan Railways Corporation said money to pay salaries was on its way but Al Ayam said workers had been promised payment by management several times and nothing had materialised.

Sudan railways is the country's biggest employer and moves about a million tonnes of freight annually, including much needed food aid for starving refugees in the war-torn south.

Iran hits Bush, media over alleged CIA spies

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper said Sunday the uncovering of a U.S. espionage network was the first defeat for President George Bush in Iran.

It also criticised Western media coverage of the spy report, singling out the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Voice of America and Radio Israel.

The Farsi-language daily Abrar said: "The discovery of the latest espionage ring is not the first U.S. defeat in Iran but the first for President Bush."

An editorial carried by the Iranian news agency IRNA said it confirmed that the United States did not wish to establish a rational relationship with Iran.

IRNA quoted Abrar as saying the Western press coverage indicated that the effect went beyond Iran and the region to U.S. intelligence networks throughout the world.

Having sensed the development, the West and especially the U.S. hastily moved to talk about a military coup attempt in Iran and subsequent arrest of several military officers.

"The idea is to attribute all these developments in Iran as part of a power struggle," the editorial said.

"One such move was a BBC report that most of those arrested are Iranians and not Americans and many personnel of the navy," Kayhan said.

It said, "This move too aimed at portraying the issue as a domestic one."

"By stating that those arrested are Iranians the Western media want to cleanse the hands of the U.S. in this affair," Abrar said.

"In a similar move, Radio Israel and the Voice of America tried to link the uncovering of the spy ring to a military coup," it added.

The U.S. presidential spokesman said whenever Tehran was in need of world attention, it resorted to such claims."

"Political analysts consider these premature reactions a consequence of dizziness caused by the latest blow on the U.S. and the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)," Abrar said.

The English-language daily Kayhan International usually hardline on foreign policy, said the Irangate scandal was not yet been forgotten and there were still questions about Bush's involvement.

"However, with the latest incident Washington finds itself in a bigger scandal," it said.

The U.S. politicians, self-proclaimed human rights activists, will find it difficult to justify establishment of a ring of espionage in a sovereign state as Iran," Kayhan said.

The newspaper quoted Sister Maria Victoria of the centre as saying that the attackers shouted at her and threw stones that hit her on the head and wrist, and smashed the windows of the north.

The centre houses some 140 homeless poor and sick people and runs a feeding programme for malnourished children of shanty towns ringing Khartoum where many southern refugees live.

Fifty inmates were present

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 192 (21111, 67777)

Rescue Police 62209093

Fire Brigade 6244112

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 65639091

Public Security Department 656000 / 683111

Hotel Complaints 605801

Price Complaints 636176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 637467

Amman Municipality 637055

Al Asrak 636722

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

- Hussein Medical Centre 8138132
- Khalidi Maternity J. Ann 64428106
- Jordan Maternity 642362
- Islah Maternity 642362
- Mahfuz J. Ann 636140
- Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
- Simeisani Hospital 669131
- University Hospital 684845
- Al-Muslier Hospital 6672219
- The Islamic, Abdali 661271
- Al-Abdi, Abdali 6641646
- Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771126
- St. Elias 6361226
- St. John, Al-Azraq 7711226
- Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200
- Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-52000
- Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-52000
- Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

- Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09) 983323
- Zarqa National Hospital (09) 991071
- Iman Hospital (09) 986732

IBRAHIM:

- Princess Bassma Hospital (02) 275555
- Greek Catholic Hospital (02) 272275
- Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
- Electric Power Company 636381
- RJ Flight Information 08-53200
- RJ Flight Information 08-52000
- Princess Haya Hospital (03) 54111

AKQAJA:

- Broadbeam 620 / 220
- Cabbage 70 / 40
- Carrots 170 / 120
- Cauliflower 170 / 120
- Cucumbers 170 / 120
- Dates 460 / 400
- Eggplant 180 / 140
- Garlic 330 / 300
- Lettuce (per one) 80 / 50
- Marrow (

National News

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CABLE OF THANKS: Participants in the two-day meeting of the central council of the Arab International Labour Federation (AILF) Sunday cabled thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to them during their meetings in Amman (Petra).

CROSSING BRIDGES: Public Security Department sources said that the crossing of the King Hussein bridge and the Prince Muhammad Bridge during Tuesday and Wednesday, the 25 and 26 of April will be as follows: on April 25 the bridges will be open until 10 a.m. so as to allow the crossing of 750 passengers on the King Hussein bridge and 350 passengers on the Prince Muhammad bridge. The two bridges will be closed after these numbers have crossed. On April 26, the two bridges will be completely closed, and traffic will be as usual on the morning of April 27 (Petra).

SOCIOLOGY: The Yarmouk University participated in the third conference of the Arab Sociology Association held in Cairo last week. Dr. Atef Ohaidat, from the department of human and social sciences at the university, presented to the conference a research paper on religion and the social change in the Arab society. The conference also discussed a number of research papers dealing with the relations of religion to politics, law, economy, media and culture (Petra).

SEMINAR: A specialised scientific seminar on the advantages of the use of white corn in fodder mixtures was organised by the American fodder grain council. Participating in the two day's seminar, under the patronage of the minister of supply, were owners of fodder factories and agricultural companies, animal herders and chicken farmers (Petra).

BUDGET: Main budget for the year 1989 has amounted to JD 52,809, including an allocation of JD 4,500 for street lighting, JD 1,028 for acquisition of land, JD 5,000 for the construction of a number of streets, and JD 15,400 for the construction of boundary walls (Petra).

INVITATION: Jordan's ambassador to Syria Nayer Al Hadid Sunday met with Syrian Minister of Energy and extended to him an invitation by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib to visit Jordan during the second half of May. The visit is aimed at consolidating bilateral cooperation in the fields of electricity and mineral resources (Petra).

CHEMISTS DAY: Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Al Hammouri will attend the special celebration held by the Jordan Chemists Association to mark World Chemists Day on Monday. On the occasion, a book exhibition will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre where the audience will be able to listen to scientific lectures (Petra).

MAYORS: Preparations will be made to hold a symposium for mayors, audit bureau controllers, and the municipality's finance officers to discuss the relation between the local councils and the audit bureau and their joint responsibility, according to a decision taken Sunday after a meeting at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. The meeting was attended by the Ministry's Secretary General Awad Al Tal, Audit Bureau's secretary general, mayors of Irbid, Madaba and Mafrak and a number of municipal finance officers (Petra).

ARAB ORGANISATIONS: Amman will be the venue for a three-day meeting of the working Arab group, emanating from the nine-member Arab ministerial committee, to discuss conditions of the common Arab League institutions. The group will discuss a formula whereby some branches or units of Arab organisations will be integrated to avoid duplication of work in the specialised Arab organisations. Taking part in the group's meetings which start in Amman Monday will be Governor of Syria Bank Mohammad Al Sharif, Tayeb Al Sa'di from Algerian foreign ministry, Arab Organisations for Administrative Development's Secretary General Naser Al Sayegh and Director of Economic cooperation and export promotion at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Asem Hindawi (Sawt Al Shaab).

By Hind Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

A Child's Writing on a Wall — a successful play

William Wordsworth once said all good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings. It takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility." This saying describes the powerful emotions emitted by the play "A Child's Writing on a Wall" currently being held at the Aliaiyah School for Girls under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The script is director Samar Dardin Karajah's interpretation of Mahmoud Shkeir's works. With the help of her drama students, Karajah has improvised on Shkeir's collection of short stories for children, The Soldier and the Doll."

Lubna Al Nijdawi plays the role of Amineh the protagonist. The story is about how Amineh, a 7-year-old, undergoes a critical experience. For the first time in her life, she is faced with complex concepts such as occupation, oppression, the meaning of a



Minister of Transport and Telecommunication Khalid Al Haj Hassan (with glasses) Sunday receives the visiting Iraqi delegation and reviews with them transport relations between the two countries (Petra photo).

Jordan, Iraq ease land transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq have agreed that all Jordanian vehicles operating between Jordan and Baghdad be exempted from all fees and charges, which Iraq used to collect from Jordanian public transport vehicles, similar to the facilities and exemptions offered by Jordan to Iraqi vehicles.

The agreement was announced Sunday during a meeting between Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khalid Al Haj Hassan and Fayed Abdul Rasoul, head of the Iraqi side to the meetings of

Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabba'a later received the Iraqi delegation and the sides reviewed trade ties between the two countries. Tabba'a also discussed with them means of increasing exports of Jordanian products to the Iraqi market.

Haj Hassan hailed the existing cooperation between both countries in the various fields, particularly in the transport sector.

Yarmouk season begins

IRBID (J.T.) — The Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology has completed an excavation season at the ancient site of Qom within the Beit Ras district, and work is now going on at Abu Thawab and Am Ghazal and Basti sites, according to Dr. Mu'awish Ibrahim, the institute director.

Mu'awish told Al Ra'i Arabic daily that the Qom excavations carried out in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities resulted in the recovery of a whole floor of mosaics which according to initial studies had served as part of a building set up during the Umayyad era on a Byzantine building.

Referring to the digs at Beit Ras, he said that the site contains Roman and Byzantine as well as Ottoman remains. In May, Ibrahim noted, various tools, jewellery, dolls, pots and other items were found. He said most of the artefacts are kept by the university's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and some are displayed at the University of Jordan's museum.

and slouched shoulders. Saba Al Ghoul, a 9th grader, continues the show with her piano variations of the same music.

The language employed by the actors is colloquial Arabic. Karajah believes it to be a more spontaneous medium for children. The tone of voice also plays a great part in projecting the emotions produced by the interaction of characters with each other. For example, Amineh's young friend, Firas, played by Sayyaf Taher, shows fury as he spits out words against the Zionist soldiers.

The director said that she intended this play to be a personal representation of an experience which we, as Arabs, can identify with.

"A lot of the plays that our children see nowadays are based on Western culture. Very little is related to the experience of our children in this part of the world. This play is based on a child's conception of certain ideas. Not enough is done on a personal level to bring plays closer to our kids."

Samar Dardin Karajah feels that children need to be listened to more often, and she gets the chance to do so in her drama classes.

In "A Child's Writing on a Wall" the kids reacted positively to Shkeir's stories. The reason for this is that he portrays a child's innocence in a language that is easy for kids to understand. The writer tries to show the way a child perceives his home, the occupation and soldiers.

Karajah finds working with these kids quite an experience. She explains that the play was created in two sections: The first half of the rehearsal concentrated on emotion, identification with the character and situation. This process was more of an educational experience in the sense that the actors listened to the music and were taught to see through it as well as to feel with it. The second half constituted the communicative skills in the script. "I feel that a director's role in a school play is not to create actors; but rather to try to expose his students to human situations so that they can communicate it to the audience."

As the play progresses, more and more signs denoting fidelity to the land spread. These are hung by the rebelling youth, Ali, and when the play reaches its climax, these signs get scattered all over the stage. Symbolism plays a great role in presentation: When the soldiers kill Ali, the signs are torn off the walls and shredded to pieces.

Music also plays its role. In the opening scene, the chorus sings violently and turbulent. Marcelle Khalifeh's sounds of crying children and gun shots can be heard in the background. This is reflected in the crouched bodies

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As demonstrations erupted in several cities in southern Jordan and at the University of Jordan, economists explained events that led to the government announcement on April 16 that increased the prices of several goods and services and which ultimately triggered the two days of rioting.

The four economists interviewed said that by implementing these measures, the government hopes to decrease local consumption, to increase exports and to decrease imports, thereby increasing government revenue which in turn would decrease the budget deficit (22 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP)).

The government in agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) seeks to reduce public expenditure and to increase revenues to the treasury in an attempt to cut deficit prior to Jordan receiving any additional loans from the IMF.

Arab unfulfilment of aid pledges to Jordan and the fall in expatriate remittances are considered by the government as the two main reasons behind the present economic problems. The economists interviewed agreed on a third reason: Overspending.

They agreed that Jordan has for many years been living beyond its means and that it became necessary to take drastic measures to reduce expenditure and to increase revenues.

University of Jordan professor of economics Dr. Ismail Ahud Rahman explains: "When government expenditure is more than its revenue, there is deficit in the budget."

He says Jordan has had a deficit for a number of years, due to government "overborrowing" from both international bank institutions and local commercial banks. "Borrowing from the latter type of bank means that Jordan must pay a high rate of interest."

So now as the saying goes, "we must face the music," Abdul Rahman says.

Both Abdul Rahman and columnist Dr. Fayed Al Fanek believe that the government by imposing the austerity measures, would raise JD 39 million to cover the budget deficit, or "at least narrow the gap," according to Abdul Rahman.

Fanek believes the government can, decrease budget deficit by reducing public expenses. "They have increased taxes to increase revenues. But, we have not yet seen a reduction of government expenses," Fanek says.

He suggests that the government "writes off" all public corporations and institutions which had proven to be "more costly and less efficient."

Al Amin reviews progress in Amman development projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, who is also chairman of the Amman region development council, said Sunday that expenditures on the various developmental projects in the Amman Governorate last year amounted to JD 38.5 million of which JD 33 million were spent on social and service projects including JD 12.8 million on municipalities, that is 33 per cent of the total actual expenditure, followed by the housing, education and health which represented 24.9, 19.9 and 7.2 per cent respectively.

The governor added that Madaba ranked second in terms of actual expenditure during the reporting period. He pointed out that the follow up reports have shown that Madaba has spent JD 7.4 million, a figure representing 10.6 per cent of the gross governorate expenditure. The projects carried out in Madaba covered both social and service-oriented projects. The social and service projects were carried out at a cost of JD 4 million, followed by education at JD 3 million. The projects included the development of Madaba hospital, building of health centres, carrying out school construction and completion of Madaba district premises.

Amin said that the infrastructure projects within the Greater Amman region accounted for JD 5.4 million, which is 26.5 per cent of the planned investment in this sector, while water projects accounted for JD 3.1 million, followed by energy JD 2 million.

Amin cited the telephone network extension project in Amman, the replacement and im-

provement of the water network also in Amman, illumination of highways and the construction of agricultural and rural roads as the most important projects carried out during last year in Greater Amman region.

The governor added that Madaba ranked second in terms of actual expenditure during the reporting period. He pointed out that the follow up reports have shown that Madaba has spent JD 7.4 million, a figure representing 10.6 per cent of the gross governorate expenditure. The projects carried out in Madaba covered both social and service-oriented projects. The social and service projects were carried out at a cost of JD 4 million, followed by education at JD 3 million. The projects included the development of Madaba hospital, building of health centres, carrying out school construction and completion of Madaba district premises.

Shomari considered as wildlife research centre

Teacher training

AMMAN (Petra) — Classes will begin at the newly established teacher training college in Karak as of June, according to the college dean Afif Abdul Rahman.

The college aims to train teachers and improve their performance in the various majors. The committee will accommodate 270 students from Ma'an, Tafileh, Karak, Mazar Qasr and Aqaba, who will be studying the various subjects, including Arabic, Islamic education, English, mathematics.

Following the successful completion of the credit hours, students will graduate with a bachelor degree in arts.

Two similar university colleges are now in operation in Amman and Irbid, in implementation of the educational development plan resolutions.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of world organisations concerned with the conservation of nature are contemplating the idea of transforming the Shomari wildlife reserve in Jordan into a centre for conducting scientific research for producing improved breeds of animals threatened with extinction and to supply such animals to Arab countries in the region, according to Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Muasher's statement which appeared in the local press Sunday served as a comment on a current campaign being launched by the Duke of Edinburgh to raise \$60 million in five years to help promote the drive to protect wildlife around the world and produce new breeds for wildlife reserves.

He said that the RSCN is also striving to establish a wildlife museum in Jordan in a bid to focus attention on the need to protect and preserve all types of plants and animals and highlight the country's natural history.

Towards the end of last year the RSCN repatriated to Zuhija wildlife reserve near Ajloun a number of Persian fallow deer and the roe deer which have been absent for some 100 years due to degradation of their natural habitat by man.

The deer is an endangered species, with only some 200 animals surviving worldwide. The RSCN has constructed deer breeding units at the reserve as well as living quarters and office space for caretaker and staff. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contributed \$100,000 to the project.

Hear the economists' view

By Munir Hamarneh and Dr. Abdulla Maliki, president of the Banks Association

AMMAN — As demonstrations erupted in several cities in southern Jordan and at the University of Jordan, economists explained events that led to the government announcement on April 16 that increased the prices of several goods and services and which ultimately triggered further funds into the treasury.

"Given the overall objectives of the measures, they will have a favourable impact. They will cut consumption and imports," said Fanek.

Hamarneh also sees the measures as affecting the economy.

He explained that the devaluation of the dinar and the increase of prices of several goods and services over the past six months and recently, combined with the stability of wages throughout this period have decreased consumers' purchasing power by "fifty per cent." This applies, in particular, to all wage earners.

"The dinar devaluation makes exports cheaper and imports more expensive," Hamarneh says. But, this policy, he says, will affect "household" and "home growth."

"Since the demand on our house production will decrease, local prices will increase. Already a kilo of tomatoes is over half a dinar," he says, adding, "but, to the outside, tomatoes will be cheap because of the dinar devaluation."

Therefore, he asks, how can the aspiration for increase of four per cent in GDP, which can only be achieved by increasing goods and services, and the government, spending on our house production will decrease, local prices will increase. Already a kilo of tomatoes is over half a dinar," he says, adding, "but, to the outside, tomatoes will be cheap because of the dinar devaluation."

He says that the price of fuel, necessary for production and industry, went up... this means that the price of the product will also go up.

"If we add this to the cost of production, which is already high due to the high costs of transportation and labour, then our product becomes less competitive outside and Jordan becomes unattractive to the investor," Hamarneh said.

He does not have any "unique" product, which would be competitive regardless of the price. Hamarneh believes, pointing out that Jordan's fruit and vegetable exports face strong competition from Turkey and other Arab states.

Exports, under discussion, exclude Jordan's potash, phosphates and fertilisers. These are controlled by the international market and have no effect on the home demand, he continued.

As a result of this projected decrease in investment opportunities, Hamarneh says unemployment will inevitably rise. He asks, "how can these measures face rising unemployment and the payment of debt services and (at the same time) form conditions for real growth?"

Abdul Rahman also points out to the present high rate of unemployment and compares it to five years ago "when we did not have a high rate of unemployment."

Malki does not believe that consumers' ability to consume will change immediately, especially in this case since the products are "inelastic," meaning that they are essential goods which will be bought regardless of price.

He says the poorer classes will not be severely effected by the increase in prices of petrol, alcohol, cigarettes, jet fuel, fuel oil, soft drinks, barley, oats, asphalt, car licence fees, telephone calls and irrigation water because, "(most of these goods are) not meant for the poor... they are meant for the upper classes."

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price changes. Only a small percentage of the population would cease to buy inelastic goods.

"Propensity (ability) to consume changes over a long period of time. Immediate change is not acceptable in economic analysis," he said. Consumers will continue spending the same in aggregate expenditure, but may substitute some goods for less expensive ones.

On the other hand, Hamarneh and Abdul Rahman believe that as the government narrows down its deficit of JD 39 million, the end result for the Jordanian citizen would be "disastrous," especially for the poorer classes.

Both economists expect the measures to create difficulties in terms of purchasing goods for "all Jordanian families... except for the extremely small sector at the top of the social strata."

Increased cost

According to Hamarneh the government austerity measures will increase the cost of investment in the Kingdom. "Recent price hikes on goods and services will have an inevitable effect on the prices of other goods and services. For example the price of fuel, necessary for production and industry, went up... this means that the price of the product will also go up."

Eventually, salaries may "rise slightly," he says, "salaries here follow prices, instead of the other way around because we do not have labour strength."

If the government raises prices by 15 per cent, salaries, much later, may rise three per cent in order to make the (economic) adjustment (required by the measures)," he says.

Although Abdul Rahman agrees with Fanek that rising prices is counterproductive to the government measures, he says that since the dinar has lost 50-55 per cent of its purchasing power, "and since a compensation in wages of the same amount is not realistic, an increase of say 10 per cent is (necessary)."

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The Afghan quagmire — who pays the price?

THE WORLD heaved a sigh of deep relief when the Soviet Union completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan in February as Moscow fulfilled its part of the bargain made in Geneva last May. It gave rise to hopes that some kind of formula could be found to settle the conflict once and for all. But now, three months after the Soviets packed up and left, the Afghan situation remains as precarious as ever, if not more complicated.

The fresh threat rearing its head is of a regional war. The latest sounds of war emanating from the long-running Afghan-Pakistani feud over the internal strife in Afghanistan cannot be dismissed as just another round of rhetoric. Quietly, the ingredients for a war are all there and in place. Granted that the possibility of the Kabul government opting for an open war with Pakistan is far remote, we cannot overlook the chance that alleged border incursions and skirmishes from both sides could push the two neighbours into a no-option-but-war situation.

No doubt, some of the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan and Pakistan would only be too happy to join the bandwagon, seen in light of the traditional political dictum in the Western Asian region which, rightly or wrongly, dictates that external tension is a medicine to internal strife. And internal strife is not in short supply in any of the countries in the region either.

Leaving aside the issue of an Afghan-Pakistani war for a moment, we cannot but raise concern over the plight of the millions of Afghan refugees who have already paid a very high price in blood for the superpower race for regional supremacy that ignited the Afghan conflict 10 years ago. Their hopes of returning to a peaceful home have been dealt a serious blow by the stand-off between the rebel fighters and the Kabul regime.

Many pundits see the answer to the entire problem in an abandonment by Moscow of its quest to protect its political interests in Afghanistan. But, where would that leave the ruling party in Kabul, not to mention the civilian residents of the Afghan capital who may or may not have any affiliation to any party involved in the conflict?

Much as one balks at the thought of internationalising the Afghan conflict, there appears to be no choice but a new external effort at convincing the Afghan rebels to accept the reality that their brothers in Kabul had been as vulnerable as they themselves were to foreign influence and had both been the victims of strings pulled by outside forces, whether communist or Western. For once, and indeed for the most crucial reasons, the two sides should seek common grounds. Until and unless that ground is not found, it would be their own people who will continue to pay the price.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

All Jordanian Arabic dailies Sunday tackle the press conference at which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent explained the government's position and outlined the situation in the Kingdom in the wake of rioting in some parts of the country. Al Ra'i daily echoed the Prince's statement that there can be no leniency with those elements that try to tamper with the country's security and his determination to put an end to anarchy. At the same time the paper emphasised the Prince's proposal of holding a national economic conference to discuss ways of handling the national economy and new measures that can settle the issue. The paper stressed the Regent's call for a dialogue between the government and the representatives of the local councils and citizens which serves as the best means for arriving at a solution. Violence can by no means achieve anything for any party and dialogue should be the language for communication and dealings among the members of the same family, the paper stressed. It said that the economic measures taken by the government aimed at revitalising the national economy and they call for sacrifice on the part of all citizens and public sectors if the desired objective is to be achieved.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on proposals for holding an Arab summit and refers to Prince Hassan's statement in which he expressed Jordan's readiness to attend. Jordan has always been for any summit at the leaders level, which represents the highest channel of communications among those responsible for the Arab Nation. Ibrahim Sakkiha writes. He says that in his response to Morocco's call for the summit meeting, Prince Hassan voiced the views of the Arab Nation and presented an outline of the various topics that should be tackled by the Arab leaders. Jordan has always been advocating a unity of ranks in the Arab World particularly with regard to the Palestine problem, the common issue and the problem that has been obsessing the world community for more than four decades, the writer adds. He says that Jordan which has a long and hard experience in handling this issue holds very important views and can contribute most effectively in any summit that tackles the Palestine issue and other questions of interest to the Arab World.

Al Dustour daily stressed that dialogue among the members of the Jordanian family remains as the most effective measure for solving problems. The paper referred to Prince Hassan's statement at the news conference in which he reaffirmed the need to end rioting and prevent the enemy from exploiting such situations. Jordan as Prince Hassan said is not used to violence and has always advocated the course of dialogue and negotiation and therefore can not condone actions of sabotage and destruction of public installations and public property, the paper noted. The paper said that Prince Hassan's proposal for an economic conference is a welcome idea since it will offer the public an open forum for discussion and for arriving at solutions.

Chinese students — won some, lost some

By Andrew Roche
Reuter

PEKING — Peking students admitted a tactical defeat on Saturday after an extraordinary 20-hour protest for democratic freedoms, but succeeded in humiliating authorities on the most hallowed ground of Chinese Communism.

In a society where historical symbols often count for more than concrete events, they temporarily wrested from the party establishment some of its most sacred images and slogans — not least its claim to represent the Chinese masses.

On Saturday afternoon 50,000 of them at last fled away from Tiananmen square baying failed to force a face-to-face dialogue with Premier Li Peng. They said they sought to avoid a clash with police and bloodshed.

The huge demonstration and

mourning for former party chief Hu Yaobang dwarfed his official memorial ceremony in the heavily-guarded Great Hall of the People next to the square. Hu's death one week ago was the trigger for the current wave of unrest.

Forced to resign in 1987 by party hardliners who accused him of allowing the spread of "bourgeois liberalism," or Western political ideas, Hu has in death acquired a following among intellectuals far greater than he enjoyed in life.

Students have called for his posthumous rehabilitation as well as freedom of speech and the press, disclosure of the personal wealth of state and party leaders and a government condemnation of leftist ideological campaigns in the 1980s.

"You praise the dead to curse the living," one onlooker in Tiananmen square said, quoting a Chinese proverb. Demonstrators

smashed hundreds of bottles in a pummeling attack on paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, whose name sounds like the Chinese for "little bottle."

One student poster at Peking University this week declared: "A true man is dead. False ones are still living."

Others bitterly satirised the calibre of top politicians. "Required qualifications to be a state leader: Minimum age 80, maximum educational level primary school, no brain," said one. Deng is 84.

Official reaction to Peking's week of unrest has, compared with previous pro-democracy campaigns, been restrained. Apart from one incident on Wednesday, when police beat a group of students, and scuffles when they tried to push into party and government headquarters, little attempt has been made to

enforce decrees against political marches.

But some observers interpret the failure to quell the unrest as a sign of confusion rather than tolerance among the leadership. "They do not know what to do. The students cannot be arrested for mourning. And their political slogans are obviously popular," one Western diplomat said.

Such support — from their own teachers, and many of the general public — sets this wave of protest aside from previous unrest such as that of late 1986, when students often appeared isolated, naive and ineffectual.

"This would never have happened five years ago. China is changing, people are less and less afraid of the party. We have crossed a threshold," said a Peking factory worker, marching with the students past clapping residents of central Peking on Friday night.

"Zhao did not say enough. If he had only said something, anything, about Hu's dismissal, it might have been enough to diffuse much of the unrest," one Chinese schoolteacher said.

Students said late on Saturday

15 years on, Portugal's 'carnation revolution' is wilting

By Colin McSevney
Reuter

LISBON — Fifteen years after a leftist rebellion restored democracy to Portugal, the last blooms of the "carnation revolution" are wilting under the glare of a government devoted to private enterprise.

On April 25, 1974, a popular uprising led by army officers ended almost half a century of right-wing dictatorship.

Most of Portugal took to the streets that warm spring morning and cheering crowds pushed red carnations down the rifle-barrels of soldiers as they marched in celebration through the capital.

The enduring image of gun and flower proved an apt symbol.

The document, currently being

debated by parliament, will be stripped of clauses committing Portugal to a "Socialist path" and enshrining the state takeovers as "irreversible gains of the working-classes."

The reforms, scheduled to become law by the autumn, allow the government to sell off all its shares in nationalised companies rather than the current limit of 49 per cent.

"Our new constitution will at last bring Portugal into line with other Western democracies," Cavaco Silva said.

Ironically, as president Mario Soares savours Tuesday's "freedom day" military parade through Lisbon the folk hero of the rebellion that shaped modern Portugal languishes in jail.

Colonel Oteo Saravia de Carvalho, who led the uprising and later ran unsuccessfully for president, was found guilty in 1987 of being the "intellectual author" of a terrorist group claiming to uphold the true ideals of the revolution.

The nature of the charges and

the severity of the sentence — 18 years — have aroused a chorus of protests from jurists and radicals at home and abroad.

Many people are dismayed that those they see as the torturers of the Salazar dictatorship are now walking free while the central figure of the revolution is all but forgotten in jail.

"The Portuguese seem to have short memories," said Oteo who is still awaiting the results of a final appeal against his conviction.

Landowners and industrialists

have returned, their confidence boosted by Anibal Cavaco Silva's free-market government which is poised to "de-politicise" the Marxist-inspired constitution and sell off state industries.

The stock exchange, closed for

two years after the revolution, is

expanding after a decade of stagnation as foreign investment soars and the economy grows

each year by around four per

cent.

New companies — from banking

and insurance to publishing

and real estate — are emerging

virtually every week to stake a

claim in a market straining to

meet the boom in demand.

The transformation from

idealist austerity to consumerism is reflected in the media

which now give lavish coverage to the local "jet-set" flaunting their

wealth at society parties and balls.

Stressing that only private en-

terprise can galvanise the EC's

poorest country, Prime Minister

Cavaco Silva said: "Our duty is to

get the state out of where it

doesn't belong and compete

equally with our European par-

tners."

The once-powerful Communists — their vote halved in recent

years — rage impotently against

the unprecedented parliamentary

majority won by the Social

Democrats in July 1987.

"These planned constitutional

reforms are nothing less than an

assault on the democratic rights

won by ordinary people in the

April 25th revolution," said

veteran Communist leader

BUDAPEST, Hungary: Collecting signatures to influence the decision-making process is fast becoming fashionable in Hungary. And it is beginning to yield results, particularly on environmental issues.

Last month, Prime Minister M. Nemeth finally gave in to public pressure and agreed to hold a referendum to determine the future of a controversial Danube River project. The plan is to build a huge dam to generate hydroelectric power.

Last year, a section of the ruling Communist Party initiated a drive to collect signatures from people supporting the dam. Parliament also voted in favour of the dam last October.

But the Nagymaros Committee, a coalition of 22 independent environmental citizens' groups, responded with 180,000 opposing signatures, demanding a referendum on the issue. Although the Hungarian constitution allows referendums, none have been held to date.

So far, the Nagymaros petition seems to have had more of a political effect than legal one. It has demonstrated the determination and resolve of the Greens, who are often called Blues because of the Danube.

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New companies — from banking

Official data shows growing problems for Soviet economy

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet wages grew more than twice as fast as productivity in the first quarter of 1989, further aggravating unsatisfied domestic demand for consumer goods, official data has showed.

Nikolai Belov, first deputy chairman of the state statistics committee Goskomstat, speaking at a news conference, also reported statistics showing a slowdown in industrial production, a decline in exports and an increase in imports.

The figures appeared to confirm that the Kremlin's liberalising economic reforms, criticised by some Soviet economists as half-hearted, have been unable to bring a quick solution to the country's mounting economic problems.

In the short term, at least, the greater freedom the reforms have given state enterprises to set wage levels for their workers has apparently exacerbated the economic imbalance, which Belov described as "a very alarming phenomenon."

Belov said average wages grew at an annualised 9.4 per cent in the first three months of 1989, while productivity grew by just 4.5 per cent.

"The Soviet economy is going through a complicated, sometimes contradictory process," Belov said, although he maintained that the main tendency was positive.

"It is necessary to control the growth of money incomes so it is in line with the growth of productivity," he noted.

In particular Belov said plans were being made to introduce a coefficient tying wage increases to productivity increases at state enterprises at which the majority of citizens work.

He said there were also plans to modify taxation, which would also curb disposable income of the 1.7 million people — out of a total workforce of 120 million — who are employed in the booming cooperative sector.

The jump in wages — which at an average 234 roubles (\$377) per month are still extremely low by the standards of other industrialised countries — has further exacerbated the imbalance between supply and demand in the economy.

Production of consumer goods rose by only 3.8 per cent in the same period, while total savings at banks grew by 10.8 billion roubles (\$17.4 billion) in the first quarter to reach a level of 307.5 billion roubles (\$49.6 billion).

The growth in savings — seen as a partial indicator of unsatisfied demand — was more than 20 per cent up on the same period last year.

Top 25 U.S. executives earn \$306 million in one year

NEW YORK (R) — The 25 highest-paid U.S. business executives together earned more than \$300 million last year, according to a survey published by Business Week magazine.

Walt Disney was an executive's magic kingdom, paying its two stars \$72 million for reversing its dismal fortunes. Chairman Michael Eisner earned \$40.1 million last year, while president

Frank Wells took home \$32.1 million.

The average chief executive officer made over \$1.13 million in salary and bonus last year, with total compensation packages including stock options totalling \$2 million, a poll of 708 executives at 354 U.S. companies found.

The average top-25 executive ranked in \$12.2 million, with the

top five alone grossing a total of \$131.3 million.

Tobacco and food giant RJR Nabisco Inc, recently privatised in a blockbuster buyout, took the third and fourth spots by paying \$21.7 million to Vice Chairman E.A. Horrigan Jr. and \$21.1 million to chief executive F. Ross Johnson.

After the \$24.7 billion buyout, Johnson walked away

from the company with \$53.8 million in pay, stock and benefits. Horrigan bailed out with \$45.7 million.

Gulf and Western Chairman Martin Davis, Bristol-Myers Chairman Richard Gelb and Ralston-Purina Chairman William Stiritz placed fifth through ninth spots with \$11.55 million for director Baine Kerr and \$11.54 million for chairman J. Hugh Liebert.

Reebok International Chairman Paul Fireman bounded into the top 10, with total compensation of \$11.4 million.

Pemzoi Corp, winner of a \$3

Government officials estimated that in the last four weeks there have been about 300 strikes.

Workers across a broad swathe of the economy are seeking pay rises to help their earnings keep pace with inflation, which has continued to rise despite a government plan launched Jan. 15 to restrain prices.

Santos, Brazil, the largest port

February and March prices rose above government targets and workers saw their real wages fall again.

Industrialists are reluctant to meet union demands for wage increases because prices of goods and services were frozen under the government's anti-inflation plan.

"Obviously workers are going to strike if their salaries are 20 per cent behind inflation," said Roberto Jereba, a member of the Sao Paulo Federation of Industries and owner of a paper company.

Despite the moves, inflation has continued to spiral higher. In

these increases to their products? How can we stand pressures from both the government and workers?" Jereba asked rhetorically.

On Thursday and Friday bank employees nationwide took to the streets demanding 31 per cent wage increases. Union leaders said that about 70 per cent of Sao Paulo and Rio De Janeiro banks were closed Thursday. In Sao Paulo there were clashes between demonstrators and riot police.

Brazil's car industry, one of the biggest export earners, has been hard hit by an indefinite metal workers strike in Greater Sao Paulo. Local units of Ford Motor Co., Volkswagen and General Motors Corp have seen production losses amounting to \$80 million, the Jornal Do Brasil newspaper reported.

They said they expected an improvement in the fiscal year beginning July 1, which they regard as crucial as it will be Prime Minister Bhutto's first full year in office.

Government spokesmen use the restoration of democracy as an argument for more aid to help new government's development objective, which they say is to alleviate poverty and raise the standard of living.

Pakistan has said it will ask for

\$3.011 billion from the annual consortium meeting. Last year's commitments amounted to \$2.7 billion.

The new package must have \$2.05 billion in project aid, \$815 million in "commodity and programme-type assistance" and \$110 million in food aid, a memorandum sent to the consortium said.

A request for aid for more than three million Afghan war refugees in Pakistan will be submitted separately.

The aid-to-Pakistan consortium includes Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway and the United States. Bhutto took office last December and adopted a previous caretaker government's budget for fiscal 1988/89 as well as an agreement with the International Monetary Fund for reforms, including cutting government subsidies on food and utility services.

The government officials forecast growth rate in gross domestic product for 1988/89 at 5.2 per cent, down from 5.9 per cent the previous year.

Growth in agriculture was likely to be 4.2 per cent against a target of almost seven per cent.

They blamed the shortfalls mainly on sudden floods last September which hit rice and cotton crops and ethnic riots in the key industrial cities Karachi

"The biggest problem is that they don't seem to have people with economic grasp except the prime minister herself," one economist said.

He added that Bhutto could possibly get the right advice in the future from various think tanks she has set up.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Traders assure public on food supplies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dealers in food supplies and merchants involved in import and export operations Saturday announced that the local markets have abundant food supplies and the consumers can buy any quantity they want at any time. Merchant representatives were speaking at a meeting held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce with chamber President Mohammad Asfour and in the presence of senior chamber members. They said that rumours about shortages in foodstuffs are baseless and urged members of the public to refrain from hoarding food supplies as they are plentiful in the market. Asfour addressed the meeting calling for close cooperation between the merchants and the chamber on the one hand and the government on the other and stressed that the government has promised to ensure the availability of sufficient food supplies, especially basic commodities like wheat, meat, sugar and rice, at current prices.

Jordanian delegation arrives in India

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian economic and trade delegation arrived in New Delhi Saturday to pave the way for a round table meeting to be held in Amman in June to discuss Jordanian-Indian economic and trade cooperation. The delegation, led by Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidou Abu Hassan, will discuss a number of topics with Indian officials and businessmen and will deliver a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi dealing with bilateral cooperation in economic fields and prospects for joint ventures that would benefit the two countries. The round table meeting in Amman, scheduled for June 12 and 13, is designed as a first step in pursuing Jordanian-Indian endeavours for stimulating trade and boosting cooperation in the economic and industrial fields. According to delegation members, the talks will be a follow up to those held in New Delhi during Prince Hassan's visit there last year.

China's foreign debt hits \$40 billion

BEIJING (AP) — China's foreign debt reached \$40 billion at the end of last year, an increase of \$5 billion over mid-1988. The government is now taking measures to clamp down on foreign borrowing, which has been growing at an annual rate of 38 per cent over the past four years, the official China Daily has said. In recent weeks, the government has limited the number of financial institutions and government offices allowed to borrow abroad. Under new regulations, only 10 financial institutions are authorised to obtain foreign loans, and only the central bank, the People's Bank of China, can borrow from the International Monetary Fund. The report quoted Zhang Jialun, a senior finance ministry official in charge of debt management, as saying China's debt is still manageable. But he warned that China has taken out too many short-term, high-interest loans, and that 40 per cent of the loans are yen-denominated, adding to the financial burden because of the Japanese currency's rising value.

Iran rejects loans for reconstruction

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian minister in charge of post-war reconstruction projects has said foreign borrowing would hurt the country's independence, the Iranian news agency IRNA has

reported. "We believe foreign loans would in the long run make the country dependent with adverse effects on the aspirations of the Islamic revolution," it quoted Deputy Prime Minister Hamid Mirzaei as saying. "Foreign loans will adversely affect our commitment to independence... reconstruction work is another aspect of our sacred defence in which task, I think, we should be as firm as we were in the battle fronts." Most Iranian officials have rejected borrowing abroad as a means to finance reconstruction of the country's infrastructure damaged in the eight-year-long Gulf war against Iraq. Reconstruction is estimated at several hundred billions of dollars. Mirzaei said 10 per cent of the 6.5 billion riyal (\$900 million) reconstruction budget for the current Iranian year which began March 21 would be spent as grants to farmers and cattle breeders.

Tokyo to cut frills for dignitaries

TOKYO (AP) — Japan will suggest "working visits" without ceremonies and banquets to accommodate more of the foreign dignitaries wanting to visit this country, a foreign ministry official has said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Japan cannot invite more than eight foreign dignitaries a year if each is honoured with ceremonial events at the Akasaka state guesthouse and black-tie banquets at the Imperial Palace. The official said dignitaries of more than 40 nations want to visit Tokyo, and Japan will welcome them for "working visits" if they agree to dispense with the ceremonies in favour of "practical talks."

Middle East Bank doubles profits

DUBAI (R) — Middle East Bank (MEB) reported increased profits in 1988 and said it looked forward to continued better business this year. MEB group managing director Neville Green said the bank, which has branches in Africa, the Middle East and the subcontinent, would strengthen its home base in the United Arab Emirates. Net profits for 1988 came to 3.6 million dirhams (\$980,000) after 1.6 million (\$435,000) in 1987. Provisions against bad loans rose to 46.5 million (\$12.7 million) from 39.2 million (\$10.7 million) in 1987. Green said further provisions would be made. Operating profits, before tax and provisions, rose to 69 million (\$18.8 million) from 55 million (\$15 million) on total assets of 3.38 billion (\$921 million) against 3.09 billion (\$842 million).

Iran buys Saudi wheat

LONDON (R) — Iran has bought wheat from Saudi Arabia through international traders after signs of improving relations between the two countries. Details of the wheat sale, believed to be the first from Saudi Arabia to Iran, were sketchy but traders said it involved less than 100,000 tonnes. "If there were any problem concerning diplomatic relations it (the wheat sale) would not have gone ahead," said one trader. Riyadh broke diplomatic ties with Tehran a year ago after months of acrimony following a riot in Mecca in July, 1987 in which more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed. Saudi Arabia, which pays big subsidies to its wheat farmers, has emerged in the last two years as a major exporter of wheat to the world market. It was the sixth largest exporter of the commodity in 1987/88 with 2,435 million tonnes of exports. Iran's Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari said two weeks ago that Iran imported 2.5 million tonnes of wheat annually.

Tokyo, London and Hong Kong top world in office costs

BOSTON (AP) — Setting up a shop in Tokyo could cost a whopping \$186 a square foot (69 square metres), while the same amount of space in Kuala Lumpur takes the small sum of \$12, says a new survey listing average prices of office space around the world.

More than 50,000 tonnes of perishable food will be carried this year, Colonel-General Vyacheslav Yefanov, Commander of Military Transport Aviation, told the official TASS news agency Saturday.

Transport problems are often partially blamed for the poor selection of food in Soviet stores.

Soviet military aircraft already carry such things as earth-moving equipment, cranes, excavators and transport vehicles.

to budgeting space and funds, said Collier's President Stewart Forbes.

"Essentially we want to get some sense of how different markets compare and to be able to provide that to clients who are increasingly active in a global market," he said. "Somebody going from Boston to Tokyo needs to budget not on the basis of Boston rents, but on Tokyo."

Rounding out the top 10 were: London, \$152; Hong Kong, \$102; Beijing, \$78; Paris, \$59; Sydney, \$58; Zurich, \$50; Boston, \$48; New York, \$47; Washington, D.C., \$47; and Moscow, \$46.

Costs, gathered partly through consultants and partly through the 1,500 real estate professionals linked to Boston-based Colliers, include average rent and operating expenses such as electricity bills.

Half of the 54 cities surveyed had rents ranging from \$20 to \$34 per square foot.

The business of finding overseas locations for U.S. firms has boomed over the past five years, said Forbes.

"Real estate has always been sort of a local business, it's almost been provincial in its outlook but as client needs became global, too, have local real estate firms," Forbes said.

Jim Montanari, vice president of New York-based Cushman and Wakefield, also involved in overseas commercial real estate, said the survey's top 10 matches his

experience with finding office space, although he said he would probably place New York before Boston.

The biggest headache in renting office space abroad is learning to deal with fewer resources and accepting such constraints as an average one per cent office vacancy rate in Tokyo, Montanari said.

"We're used to having multiple choices," he said. "People doing this for the first time, it's sort of shocking," he said.

Pakistan reports shortfalls, seeks more foreign help

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan, seeking \$3 billion foreign aid, reported economic shortfalls in the current fiscal year but forecast a turnaround in the year from July 1.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has asked for \$300 million more than pledged last year from a World Bank-sponsored consortium meeting in Paris last week, citing the need for extra funds to help the transition to democracy.

Pakistan's economic growth is estimated below target, prices have risen and the balance of payments deficit is likely to rise during the financial year ending June 30, government officials said.

They said they expected an improvement in the fiscal year beginning July 1, which they regard as crucial as it will be Prime Minister Bhutto's first full year in office.

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Pakistan has said it will ask for

\$3.011 billion from the annual consortium meeting. Last year's commitments amounted to \$2.7 billion.

The new package must have \$2.05 billion in project aid, \$815 million in "commodity and programme-type assistance" and \$110 million in food aid, a memorandum sent to the consortium said.

This compares with the official rate of 6.3 per cent last year but Bhutto put inflation at about 18 per cent when she took office.

An unexpectedly sharp deterioration in the external terms of trade and a steep drop in remittances from Pakistani workers abroad contributed to pressure on balance of payments, the memorandum said.

It said the current account balance of payments deficit was expected to rise to about \$1.9 billion, 4.3 per cent of gross national product (GNP), compared with \$1.7 billion, 4.1 per cent of GNP, last year.

"The government expects that 1989/90 will see a turnaround in the balance of payments position reflecting a resumption in the growth of exports, a fall in imports and remittances," it said.

Most of Bhutto's cabinet are new to government,

they don't seem to have people with economic grasp except the prime minister herself," one economist said.

He added that Bhutto could possibly get the right advice in the future from various think tanks she has set up.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, April 23, 1989		
Central Bank official rates		

Sports

200,000 turn out to salute Tom Landry

DALLAS (R) — With bands, balloons, speeches and plaques, Dallas paid homage Saturday to Tom Landry who coached the Dallas Cowboys for 29 years but was abruptly fired in February by the American football team's new owners.

Police estimated more than 200,000 people lined the streets to cheer and applaud Landry as a hero.

The parade was delayed several times by fans who crowded out the pavement to try to shake Landry's hand.

Landry, who led the Cowboys to 280 wins, 68 losses, and six ties, was clearly moved. He was dressed in the same business man's hat, tie and jacket that made him a familiar sight to television audiences as he stood legs apart, arms folded on the sidelines.

"I am just overwhelmed," he said. "I don't know what to say."

A Arkansas oilman Jerry Jones, who on February 25 bought control of the Cowboys for a reported record-high \$1.8 million replaced Landry with Jimmy Johnson of the University of Miami even before the sale was publicly announced.

The firing incensed Dallas fans. The Dallas Morning News called it "a callous end to a glorious career."

President George Bush and Evangelist Billy Graham were among the hundreds of people who sent telegrams. Bob Hope telephoned and quipped, "you have done as much for football as you have for hats. You won so many games that a lot of people thought Tom Landry was the

capital of Texas."

Two airlines gave Landry and his wife passes good for free first-class travel for life.

More than 100 present and past Cowboy players rode in the parade and attended the city hall ceremonies.

"There is not a player that I've talked to, that I know, that doesn't have respect for the man who led us for so long," said former quarterback Roger Staubach.

The Cowboys have never played a game without Landry, 64, as head coach.

The Cowboys struggled for five years when they joined the National Football League. But Landry, a defensive back for 10 years for the New York Giants, instituted a game plan called the "flex defense," and the Cowboys began to dominate.

The team had 20 consecutive winning seasons, reaching the Super Bowl five times and winning it twice and were often referred to, both at home and abroad, as "America's team."

Reserved and religious

A reserved and religious man, Landry clung to his humble image throughout the celebrations.

"I know I am not worthy of some of the things that have been said about me today," he said.

With his chin quivering with emotion, Landry told a crowd gathered at City Hall, "I'll probably never be in another parade, I may never be in another press conference again, but when I see you on the street I'll sure say hello to you."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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TAKING A BATH TO WIN

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 6 5 3
♥ A
♦ K J 9
♣ A J 10 8 3

WEST **EAST**
* K Q 10 9 ♦ 8 7 2
* Q J 5 2 ♠ K 10 9 8 7 6 3
0 7 4 ♠ 0 6 2
* 7 6 ♠ 4 K

SOUTH
* A J 4
♥ 7 5
♦ 9 8 3
♣ Q 9 5 2

The bidding: King of ♦

Timing is usually associated with physical sports. However, it is also vital in what the Dutch call "deck-sports,"—mind sports such as bridge and chess. Study this hand.

Minor suits are the orphans of the bridge world—in duplicate bridge, they are all but forgotten. Here, however, there is no doubt that five of either minor is a better contract than three no trump.

Against five diamonds, West led the top of his broken spade sequence. As long as East can be kept off lead until the club suit is set up, declarer is safe. But what if the club king is offside?

If the club finesse is going to win, the contract is declarer-proof. If it doesn't and declarer takes the opening spade lead, draw trumps and then takes the club finesse, he will go down as the cards lie. East will win the king and revert to spades, and the defenders can score two spade tricks for down one.

Declarer can correct the timing by allowing West to hold the first trick. This maneuver, known as the Bath Coup for the English resort where it was first utilized, forces West to shift his attack or else allow declarer to win two spade tricks.

Best is to shift to a club. The safest play for declarer is to rise with the ace (no finesse risks a club ruff), draw trumps in three rounds and then force out the king of clubs. Declarer wins the spade return with the ace and discards his remaining spade on dummy's long club. In all, declarer wins two major-suit aces, five diamond tricks and four clubs, losing only a trick in each black suit.

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Declarer

France on the spot over Kampuchea guns

BANGKOK (R) — France, seeking a peacemaker role in Kampuchea and expanded contacts with Indochina, has been put on the spot by reports it sent nine tonnes of weapons to opposition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Paris said reports that France sent arms to Sihanouk's Kampuchean guerrilla group were "totally groundless."

In Bangkok, the Thai armed forces chief-of-staff said he was equally certain the reports were true. General Sunthorn Kong-sompone told *The Nation* newspaper a shipment had arrived from France and was meant to boost the guerrillas' morale.

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhaven, usually loquacious on the subject of Indochina, seemed to come down on both sides at once. He questioned the veracity of the report but told reporters: "Nine tonnes of weapons are meaningless anyway."

There has been no explanation for the contradiction in the exchanges last week.

They followed statements by Western diplomats here that France was pumping in arms for the exiled prince, championed by the West as a key figure in any

Kampuchea settlement.

The diplomats said that France delivered anti-tank and automatic weapons, ammunition, radio and other equipment to a That military base to be handed on to Sihanouk.

Sunthorn said France had requested landing permission and passage of the weapons to Sihanouk's forces and a shipment had arrived.

The reports ruffled the surface calm that masks hectic diplomatic manoeuvring over Kampuchea, whose next step is a meeting between Sihanouk and Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen in Jakarta May 2.

Diplomats said they could jeopardise France's growing efforts to regain the political initiative in its former imperial domain of Indochina and to play a pivotal role in the settlement of the 10-year conflict.

Vietnam, which announced April 5 it was pulling all its forces out of Kampuchea by September, expressed dismay at the weekend that any Western country should deliver weapons to the guerrillas at this stage.

The Communist Party newspaper *Nhan Dan*, while carefully avoiding naming France, said any weapons supplies now would only prolong the conflict.

Fishermen skim more oil than ships in Alaska

HOMER, Alaska (R) — A huge Soviet oil-skimming ship has joined Alaskan fishermen using bait buckets to clean up oil from the worst spill in U.S. history.

Freelance fishermen, told that Exxon Corp was offering a \$5 a gallon bounty for oil brought to five collection barges, headed their small boats out into rough seas from ports along the coast to try their luck.

A U.S. coast guard spokesman here said Saturday the fishermen, wielding buckets they normally use for bait, so far had been more productive than the 133-metre, 10,260-tonne *Vaydaghushky* — the world's largest oil-skimming vessel.

The Soviet ship left Seward, a fishing port south of Anchorage, two days ago, but reported its first recovery of oil only later Friday night.

"They had some problems getting started, getting their booms out in heavy seas and stuff like that," a coast guard spokesman said. "Our man on board said that so far they had picked up 500 gallons, but the captain was optimistic that he could get a lot more today."

The coast guard is monitoring the ship's activities and Exxon is paying \$15,000 a day to charter it.

So far the rag-tag bucket brigade of bounty-hunting fishermen have collected far more oil in just a few days.

An Exxon official in this fishing port said several thousand gallons had been recovered by the fishermen, who scoop it out of the water after pushing it together with booms. He said some collection barges were receiving the fishermen's small buckets of oil faster than they could handle it.

Homer, which lies near the head of Cook inlet some 480 kilometres from Bligh Island where the *Exxon Valdez* went aground on March 24, is the latest Alaskan port to be swamped by oil spill workers. Exxon, which plans to hire 4,000 to help in the clean-up, posted hiring notices here Saturday.

An Exxon official said Saturday that only about a third of the more than 10 million gallons that came from the *Exxon Valdez* was still drifting, carried by tides, winds and currents south and west from Prince William Sound.

He said the rest had either evaporated, been burned, dispersed, recovered, sunk to the bottom or washed ashore.

Exxon's damage control plan calls for cleaning up some 560 kilometres of shoreline by this summer, although environmentalists say that the gummy crude oil has already soiled well over 1,600 kilometres of coastline, killed thousands of birds and at least 200 sea otters and threatens other animals and the future of the lucrative fishing industry.

More than 50,000 students Saturday defied government edicts and massed in the city's huge Tiananmen Square while the official funeral for Hu, whom the students have made the symbol of their demands, was held inside the adjacent National Con-

Philippine rebels seek to boost anti-bases push

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels called for a national alliance Sunday to remove U.S. military bases from the Philippines.

The communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) made the call two days after rebels shot dead a U.S. colonel helping President Corazon Aquino's government in anti-insurgency techniques.

The rebels, said by the military to control or influence 20 per cent of the country, said they were ready to form "a progressive coalition government" with political parties, groups or individuals opposed to the presence of U.S. bases in the Philippines.

"Major traditional political parties and independent groups could form an alliance with the National Democratic forces for the immediate dismantling of the U.S. military bases and total opposition to U.S. intervention in the nation's affairs," the NDF said in a statement sent to news offices.

The NDF is an alliance of 13

underground leftist groups spearheaded by the Communist Party and its military wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

Leaders of the country's traditional parties could not be reached for comment but are expected to reject the rebel offer, being anti-communist and largely conservative in outlook, political analysts said.

The NDF repeated its boast it could seize power "within the next decade."

It called on its units around the country to hasten the formation of revolutionary councils in the provinces "until the provisional revolutionary government is proclaimed."

The NDF accused the Aquino government of intensifying the insurgency war to "serve American interests."

Politicians and newspapers Sunday warned against any expansion of U.S. involvement in the anti-insurgency campaign in the wake of the killing of Colonel James Rowe.

Scandal tour dishes up the dirt on the U.S. capital

By Anne Senior
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Amid the splendour of Washington's monuments and the pristine order of its parks, there has always been dirt to dish up and mud to sling.

The U.S. capital, planned as a citadel of American ideals, has seen its fair share of scandal — and now there is a special tour of the scenes of its disgrace.

For 100, Washington Scandal Tour guides visitors by bus to the sites of political undoing and sexual indiscretion that have rocked governments, destroyed careers and wrecked lives.

Tour guides supply a liberal dose of political satire and rumour to provide all the elements of a typical blockbuster novel — power, lust, envy and revenge.

One tour highlight is the Watergate residential complex, where a bungled break-in at Democratic Party headquarters in 1972 led to the ruin of Richard Nixon's presidency two years later.

Another stop is the townhouse where Gary Hart, then a contender for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, entertained model Donna Rice unaware that reporters were lurking outside.

The bus stops by a White House office building where

Oliver North, a former Reagan aide who has been on trial for his part in the Iran-contra affair, shredded classified documents with his loyal assistant, Fawn Hall, as investigators closed in.

The tour is the work of a Washington-based political comedy troupe known as Gross National Product (GNP). The jaunt started as an advertisement for GNP's shows but soon proved popular in its own right.

Rick London, GNP's producer, said there had been so much interest in the Saturday afternoon trip that the group plans to schedule another circuit every Sunday.

On a rainy Saturday afternoon recently, out-of-towners,



Chinese students carrying wreaths march in Peking's Tiananmen Square in a pro-democracy memorial service for Hu Yaobang.

Riots rock China

PEKING (R) — Rioting rocked two Chinese provincial capitals after the funeral of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang, official reports said Sunday.

Rioters in Xian, southwest of peking, attacked government buildings Saturday, injuring 130 armed police, the New China News Agency reported from the Shaanxi provincial capital.

No deaths were reported, the agency said.

In the southern city of Changsha, demonstrators attacked and injured police, wrecked and looted shops and "threatened the safety of lives and property," Hunan province radio said.

A Westerner said that at one point, about 1,000 people managed to enter the Communist Party headquarters in the city.

The violent anti-government protests followed a week of demonstrations in Peking in which thousands of students confronted police and government officials with demands for freedom and democracy.

More than 50,000 students Saturday defied government edicts and massed in the city's huge Tiananmen Square while the official funeral for Hu, whom the students have made the symbol of their demands, was held inside the adjacent National Con-

gress building.

A few hours earlier, about 100,000 crowded into the square in the biggest demonstration seen in the capital since 1976.

Peking students disowned the violence in the provincial cities.

Western residents in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province in the southwest, and Nanking, national capital under the pre-communist republic, reported days of student demonstrations in Hu's honour.

He died of a heart attack April 15.

Peking students Sunday stayed by telephone, said about 5,000 people threw stones at police who retaliated by charging with batons, beating students.

Westerners said the main objectives of his trip were to seek international aid to help Nicaragua's war-ravaged economy and to persuade European countries to pressure Central American states and the United States to respect Central American peace accords.

Ortega signs censorship law

Ortega signed a news media law Saturday that abolishes censorship before publication and broadcast and the indefinite closures of newspapers and radio stations.

The new code does not ban private television stations, which had been sought by opposition groups, but "guarantees equal access to social and political groups" to government-run television. It also provides for penalties for disseminating information deemed contrary to state interests.

The law was passed Friday by the National Assembly.

Ortega signed it before leaving on a two-week tour of 11 Western European nations to seek aid for his cash-strapped Sandinista gov-

ernment.

Thousands of foreign tourists annually said the trouble started after unemployed people joined students who had gathered in the main square to mourn Hu.

A Western witness, contacted by telephone, said about 5,000 people threw stones at police who retaliated by charging with batons, beating students.

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Ortega turns to Europe for help

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega left on a 10-nation tour of Western Europe Saturday, saying it was a critical time for Central America's future.

"We are living at a very important moment when a space has been opened which close if we don't act quickly," Ortega told a news conference shortly before leaving for France.

"It depends on the Central American countries and on the international community whether this space opens further or whether it closes and the economic, military and political situation in the region worsens," he said.

Ortega is making his most extensive trip to Western Europe, visiting France, Belgium, Spain, Greece, Italy, West Germany, Britain, Ireland, Norway and Sweden over more than two weeks.

Daniel Ortega

Ortega claimed the new law is one of the most progressive in Latin America because it does not provide for fines or permanent shutdowns of news outlets. But it does provide for temporary suspensions.

The president also said journalists work in greater security in Nicaragua than in other Central American nations, and he mentioned El Salvador, where he said they face "systematic terrorism."

"In other countries in the region, journalists, union leaders and opposition politicians are assassinated," he told reporters after signing the law.

Major provisions of the new law include:

— Penalties for disseminating information deemed contrary to the interests of the state, for "altering" government news releases, communiques and other statements, and for the "transmission, diffusion, publication or projection of injurious, defamatory or false information."

— Provisions for Interior Ministry closures of up to four months, a measure credited with keeping the country free of rabies. Minnelli, who came by bus from the Netherlands, said she had been misinformed about the rules. Inspector Stig Thelberg said at the time that "Liza is guilty of smuggling" in violation of the quarantine laws. Customs officers allowed the dog to be sent on to Paris while Minnelli stayed to perform. Meanwhile, the investigation into the "Lilly" affair continued. "I expect to get the necessary documents from the customs police in two to three weeks, then I will decide to file charges or not," public prosecutor Björn Rosen said in a telephone interview. Swedish law would require Minnelli, if convicted of smuggling, to pay a fine in proportion to her income. Rosen said the American entertainer had deposited a "substantial sum of money" pending the outcome of the case, but declined to say how much.

COLUMN

Opera singer returns to Covent Garden

LONDON (R) — Spanish tenor Jose Carreras returned in triumph to London's Royal Opera House Tuesday after a three-year absence caused by his long fight against leukaemia. Carreras, 42, won at least 10 standing ovations — the first before he even began his two-hour song recital — as a packed house clapped, cheered, stamped and showered the stage with flowers. Carreras, diagnosed in 1987 as suffering from leukaemia, delighted the Covent Garden audience with a series of songs and Arias ranging from the romantic to the religious. The singer, who now devotes part of his income to an international foundation he has set up to fight leukaemia, will make a full comeback at Covent Garden at a later date.

Minnelli's dog moves bureaucracy's wheels

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A prosecutor said Tuesday he was considering whether formal charges will be filed against entertainer Liza Minnelli of bringing her dog into Sweden in violation of strict quarantine laws. Customs police seized Minnelli's cairn terrier at a Stockholm hotel April 11 after her arrival on a tour with singers Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis, Jr. Dogs brought to Sweden must be put in quarantine for four months, a measure credited with keeping the country free of rabies. Minnelli, who came by bus from the Netherlands, said she had been misinformed about the rules. Inspector Stig Thelberg said at the time that "Liza is guilty of smuggling" in violation of the quarantine laws. Customs officers allowed the dog to be sent on to Paris while Minnelli stayed to perform. Meanwhile, the investigation into the "Lilly" affair continued. "I expect to get the necessary documents from the customs police in two to three weeks, then I will decide to file charges or not," public prosecutor Björn Rosen said in a telephone interview. Swedish law would require Minnelli, if convicted of smuggling, to pay a fine in proportion to her income. Rosen said the American entertainer had deposited a "substantial sum of money" pending the outcome of the case, but declined to say how much.

Texas father wins support case of Soviet child

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — A jurist dismissed the case against a man being sued for child support payments to a daughter living in the Soviet Union. Despite the action of special master Greg Harrison, George Hallak, a native of Palestine, said he plans to continue sending money and clothing to his 12-year-old daughter, Nelly, through friends. "It's a father's obligation," Hallak said as he held up a receipt for \$400 he sent Nelly in December. "Hallak, who now lives near Houston, met and married Loudmilla Kasatina while he was a student at a Moscow University. Their daughter was born in 1976. Hallak came to the United States in 1982 hoping his wife and daughter would follow. When they did not, he was granted a divorce by a Texas court in 1985. Attorney General Jim Mattox said his office took the case against Hallak at the behest of the Soviet Union's Association of Lawyers, which represents Hallak's ex-wife. Mattox said his office helps children no matter what country they live in. Hallak said he fought the lawsuit because he believes money he sends his daughter via the Soviet bureaucracy will end up in the pockets of everyone but his daughter.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN. °F	MAX. °F	WEATHER

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